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November 25, 2008

Honorable Barack Obama
President-elect, United States of America
c/o David Ogden
Presidential Transition Team
Washington, DC 20270

Dear President-elect Obama:

I am very pleased to support your nominee for the Attorney General of the United States, Eric H. Holder, Jr. As a long-time victim advocate, resident of far away California, and most importantly a survivor of a homicide victim, I have heard about Mr. Holder for about 20 years, and have followed his career with admiration and gratitude.

Though many support letters list his accomplishments specific to crime victims, you already know those. What I want to say is, we need someone at the Department of Justice who believes in balance, believes in justice, not just CRIMINAL justice or JUVENILE justice, but justice for all. We need someone who realizes that crime victims are equal clients of the system. Both the adult and the juvenile justice systems need a victim-centered perspective.

Fortunately, Mr. Holder knows crime victim issues and will not over look what needs to be done. His reputation for fairness and thoughtful deliberation will serve us well. He is familiar with the DOJ Office for Victims of Crime and with that knowledge I think he will move quickly and with "vision" to re-establish that Office's leadership for the nation.

Eric Holder is truly a gift to those of us who dedicate our lives to serving victims and survivors of crime. He understands the importance of our issues and concerns, and will require *no* on-the-job training regarding crime victims' needs, rights and services.

I join countless colleagues in my field in strongly supporting Eric H. Holder, Jr. to serve as the Attorney General of the United States, and thank you for your wisdom in nominating him.

If I can provide you with additional information or answer any questions, please contact me at (949) 492-9779. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Sharon J. English